

## Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS FOR AMB LEONARD FROM UNA

FOL RPT CAIRO 16893 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT DAMASCUS

TEL AVIV 12 JUL 78 QUOTE

SECRET CAIRO 16893

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR MOPS PINT LE IS EG SY

SUBJECT: TALK WITH VP MUBARAK ON LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 174090 (B) CAIRO 16659 (C) STATE 172481

1. AT MEETING WITH VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING, I TOLD HIM OF MY TALK WITH MFA UNDERSEC KHALIL AND ALSO BRIEFED HIM ON STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO TRY TO DEFUSE LEBANESE CRISIS. SPECIFICALLY, I TOLD HIM OF OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE SARKIS TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION, TO URGE THE SYRIANS AND THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADERS TO ABIDE BY THE EXISTING FRAGILE CEASE FIRE, AND TO

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URGE THE ISRAELIS TO PERSUADE THEIR LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS TO COOL IT. WE BELIEVE GOE SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT DANGERS OF LEBANESE SITUATION AND WOULD WELCOME ANYTHING EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO ASSIST IN DEFUSING IT. A MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO SARKIS, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LATTER'S REMAINING IN OFFICE MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP. TOLD HIM WE WOULD ALSO

WELCOME ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS GOE MIGHT HAVE.

2. MUBARAK DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW OF MY EARLIER TALK WITH KHALIL, WHICH WAS PROBABLY REPORTED TO KAMEL. MUBARAK, LIKE KHALIL, AGREED THAT THE LEBANESE SITUATION IS DANGEROUS AND WORRISOME, BUT ALSO SHOWED NO GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY. HE UNDERTOOK TO INFORM SADAT IN AUSTRIA AND THOUGHT THE LATTER MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND SARKIS A MESSAGE URGING THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT NOT TO RESIGN AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. OTHERWISE, HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS.

3. MUBARAK WAS INTERESTED IN SYRIAN, CHRISTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS. WE HAD JUST FINISHED A TALK ON WEIZMAN IN ANOTHER CONTEXT AND MUBARAK ASKED IF WE HAD DISCUSSED THE LEBANESE CRISIS WITH WEIZMAN. I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH WEIZMAN ON THE MATTER AND THAT THE ISRAELI DEFMIN HAS TOLD US HE HAS SENT CLEAR SIGNALS TO THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO COOL IT. SINCE WEIZMAN IS HELD IN RATHER HIGH REGARD HERE, THIS SEEMED TO PLEASE MUBARAK.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, MUBARAK'S PRINCIPAL AIDE, USAMA AL BAZ, CAME TO THE EMBASSY AND I REITERATED TO HIM WHAT WE ARE DOING. AT ONE POINT, AL BAZ THOUGHT THAT, IF SADAT WISHES TO DO SO, HE COULD SEND A MESSAGE TO SECRET

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ASSAD ON THE SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE BROKEN, AL BAZ NOTED THAT THE "HOT LINE" BETWEEN SADAT AND ASSAD IS STILL OPEN, BUT HAS NOT OF LATE BEEN USED. I SAID WE WERE NOT URGING SADAT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ASSAD AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ANY SUCH MESSAGE ON LEBANON MIGHT NOT BE TOO WELL RECEIVED BY ASSAD. AL BAZ AGREED AND SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD ALSO BE SADAT'S VIEW.

5. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EGYPTIANS EXPRESS PRO FORMA CONCERN ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION, BUT ARE GENERALLY RELAXED ABOUT IT. THIS IS NOT TOO SURPRISING. EGYPT'S TWO GREATEST OPPONENTS ON THE LEBANESE SCENE ARE AT EACH OTHERS THROATS. THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE TO SUSPECT SYRIAN AMBITIONS IN LEBANON AND WOULD LIKE THE SYRIAN MILITARY OUT. AS FAR AS THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS ARE CONCERNED, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE LITTLE USE FOR THEM AND REGARD THEM AS WILLING ISRAELI PAWNS. GOE IN ANY CASE HAS NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH EITHER THE SYRIANS OR THE CHRISTIANS AND HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, THAT IT HAS NO REAL ROLE TO PLAY ON LEBANESE FRONT. EILTS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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